

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 08829 281651Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10  
OMB-01 SSM-05 TRSE-00 /093 W  
-----281700Z 011859 /44

R 281624Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1106  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NY  
USIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 8829

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR PINT SY  
SUBJ: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR DAMASCUS 28

1. DECEMBER 28 AL-BAATH HEADLINED ARAFAT STATEMENT  
SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE AND  
INDICATING READINESS ATTEND GENEVA ME-PC IF INVITED AND  
IF IT "SERVES OUR CAUSE." WALDHEIM'S INTENTION VISIT  
AREA EARLY NEXT YEAR ALSO GIVEN PROMINENCE IN SEVERAL  
PAPERS. AL-THAWRAH HEADLINED BRIEFING PRIMIN KHULAYFAWI  
GAVE PRES ASAD ON RESULTS ROMANIAN VISIT, WHILE TISHRIIN  
BANNERED THAT ME ISSUE IS PRIMARY PROBLEM FACING WORLD  
AND THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER HAS ANNOUNCED DESIRE TO  
VISIT REGION. ALL PAPERS CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLES  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DAMASC 08829 281651Z

RE ALLEGED INTERNAL TROUBLES IN IRAQ AND INTENSIFIED  
THEIR MUD-SLINGING AGAINST IRAQI REGIME. REPORTS  
GIVE IMPRESSION THAT IRAQ RIFE WITH DISSIDENCE AND  
REGIME RUNNING SCARED. IRAQI AUTHORITIES PORTRAYED  
AS INTENSIFYING HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES, ARRESTS, AND  
TORTURE.

2. REGARDING ARAFAT AND PLO SUPPORT FOR CONCEPT WEST BANK STATE AND CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE INVITATION TO GENEVA IF PROFERRED, SYRIAN PAPER QUOTES ARAFAT'S STATEMENTS TO CAIRO DAILY AL-GUMHOURIA RECALLING PNC'S DECISION ESTABLISH PALESTINIAN STATE ON ANY LIBERATED TERRITORY AND ASKING RHETORICALLY WHY SHOULDN'T PLO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ITS RIGHT TO ESTABLISH SUCH A STATE WHEN "WHOLE WORLD" RECOGNIZES ITS RIGHT TO DO SO. SAME ARTICLE GOES ON TO QUOTE PLO EXCOMM MEMBER MAHMOUD ABBAS IN KUWAIT THAT PLO DOES NOT REJECT IDEA ATTENDING ME-PC IN PRINCIPLE AND THAT IT UP TO PNC MEETING IN FEBRUARY TO DECIDE ON ESTABLISHMENT GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE. TISHRIIN REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER HAS RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF ME ISSUE AND HAS SAID THAT HE HOPES TO MEET PRESIDENTS ASAD AND SADAT AS WELL AS RABIN BEFORE TAKING DECISION REGARDING ROLE OF U.S. IN RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. SEVERAL PAPERS ALSO FEATURED COMMENTS OF COLORADO STATE LEGISLATOR, DR SAMIR ZAKHEM, WHO HAD MEETING WITH PRES ASAD DEC 26 (DAMASCUS 8790). (ZAKHEM MISTAKENLY TERMED CONGRESSMAN FROM COLORADO IN SOME MEDIA REPORTS.) ZAKHEM QUOTED AS LAUDING PRES ASAD FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND FOR IMPROVING IMAGE OF ARABS IN WAKW OF OCTOBER WAR. ZAKHEM FURTHER QUOTED AS CLAIMING AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION BECOMING MORE FAVORABLE TO ARABS SINCE 1973 WAR AND THAT SYRIAN TROOPS PRESENT IN LEBANON ARE "IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY AND PRESENT AMONG THEIR OWN PEOPLE."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03      DAMASC 08829 281651Z

4. VISIT OF LEBANESE PRIMIN HUSS TO EGYPT AND LIBYA GIVEN GENERALLY PROMINENT COVERAGE AS IS DECISION TO FORM 40,000-MAN LEBANESE ARMY. HUSS VISIT IS DESCRIBED AS CONNECTED TO RECENT SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN UNITY AGREEMENT AND LEBANESE INTEREST IN ROLE AT GENEVA. PORTION OF ARTICLE DEALING WITH FORMATION OF LEBANESE ARMY TRAILS OFF INTO ATTACK ON ISRAEL'S ROLE IN SOUTH LEBANON AIMED AT PREVENTING ADF FROM RESTORING ORDER TO AREA AND ORGANIZING PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN SOUTH IN ACCORDANCE WITH 1969 CAIRO AGREEMENT.

5. AL-BAATH EDITORIAL TOOK SWIPE AT U.S. FOR RECENT DELIVERY OF F-15'S TO ISRAEL, STATING THIS HARDLY GESTURE TOWARDS PEACE AND ASKING RHETORICALLY WHAT "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" SEEKING BY STEPPING UP ARMS SUPPLIES TO ISRAEL; THEN ANSWERING THAT EITHER U.S. NOT SERIOUS ABOUT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, OR ELSE TRYING TO USE "ZIONIST MILITARY MACHINE" TO IMPOSE ITS WILL ON

AREA. IN CONCLUSION EDITORIAL WARNS THAT OCTOBER  
WAR HAD ENDED IDEA OF ANY ARAB SURRENDER BEFORE A FAIT  
ACCOMPLI.  
MURPHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS SUMMARIES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976DAMASC08829  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760474-0093  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761211/aaaaaisz.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** vogelfj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <23 DEC 2004 by vogelfj>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR DAMASCUS 28  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, SY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006